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Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEGUCI 04345 112322Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
----------082574 112325Z /75
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FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 1509
INFO AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MEXICO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CARACAS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T TEGUCIGALPA 4345

EXDIS

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY VAKY FROM CHARGE

EO 11652 XGDS-3
TAGS: PINT, NU, HO
SUBJECT: CENTRAL AMERICAN MEDIATION INITIATIVE

REF: (A) STATE 229639, (B) STATE 229146

1. REF (A) RECEIVED WHILE CHARGE AND POLITICAL OFFICER WERE MEETING WITH VICE FOREIGN MINISTER HERNANDEZ ON SEPTEMBER 11, IN ORDER TO CONVEY SUBSTANCE REF (B).

2. BASED ON A CONVERSATION WITH HONDURAN CHARGE IN WASHINGTON, VICE FOREIGN MINISTER STATED THAT APPARENTLY GOCR BELIEVES SITUATION IN NICARAGUA WAS DETERIORATING FAR MORE RAPIDLY THAN ANTICIPATED BY CENTRAL AMERICANS. AS A RESULT, HERNANDEZ SAID, COSTA RICA IS RECONSIDERING ITS INITIATIVE AND NOW MAY BE MORE INCLINED TO FAVOR OAS CONSULTATIVE MECHANISM. THIS LATTER

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INFORMATION APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN CONVEYED TO HONDURAN CHARGE IN WASHINGTON BY COSTA RICAN AMBASSADOR, WHO REPORTEDLY HAD TALKED TO PRESIDENT CARAZO.

3. HERNANDEZ SAID THAT HONDURAS COULD NOT OPPOSE CONVENING OF CONSULTATIVE MECHANISM BECAUSE OF 1969 PRECEDENT WHEN HONDURAS REQUESTED AN URGENT OAS MEETING. HE ADDED THAT

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HE REALIZED THAT THE SITUATION IS SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT AT THIS TIME BECAUSE AN INTERNAL NICARAGUAN QUESTION IS INVOLVED. THIS INTERNAL ASPECT TROUBLES GOH, BUT ON BALANCE HERNANDEZ SAID GOH WOULD FOLLOW GOCR IN OPTING FOR THE OAS MEETING IF THAT IS WHAT IS DECIDED. HERNANDEZ STATED THAT HE BELIEVED THAT GOH WOULD VOTE IN FAVOR OF CONVOCATION OAS CONSULATIVE MECHANISM, IF THIS COMES TO A VOTE. HE EMPHASIZED THAT THIS POSITION HAS NOT REPEAT NOT BEEN APPROVED BYET BY GOH. IT WAS CLEAR FROM CONVERSATION THAT GOH VERY MUCH HOPES TO FOLLOW COSTA RICAN LEAD ON THIS WHOLE ISSUE.

4. IN ANSWER TO A QUESTION ABOUT THE FOLW OF REFUGEES FROM NICARAGUA INTO HONDURAS, WHICH HAD BEEN REPORTED ON LOCAL RADIO, HERNANDEZ REPLIED THAT ONLY A FEW FAMILIES HAVE CROSSED THE BORDER SO FAR. HERNANDEZ FEARED THAT MORE VIOLENCE COULD LEAD TO AN EXODUS FROM NICARAGUA.

5. COMMENT: VICE FONMIN MADE CLEAR HIS OWN AGREEMENT WITH REPORTED GOCR POSITION THAT EVENTS MAY BE OUTPACING CENTRAL AMERICAN INITIATIVE, AND THUS NEED TO CONSIDER OAS CONSULTATIVE MECHANISM NOW.
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